

REMARKS

This Amendment After Final is submitted in response to the Office Action dated April 21, 2003. In the Office Action, the Patent Office entered Applicants' amendment filed on February 24, 2003. Additionally, the Patent Office rejected Claims 21-53 under 35 U.S.C. §251 as allegedly improper recapture of claimed subject matter deliberately surrendered by Applicants' in their first application, U.S. Serial No. 08/289,257, filed August 11, 1994 from which the present reissue is based. Further, Applicants note with appreciation that the Patent Office indicated that copies of signed IDS Forms PTO 1449 for Paper Nos. 4 and 8 were received. Moreover, Applicants note with appreciation that the Patent Office indicated that Claims 1-20 and 54-56 are allowable.

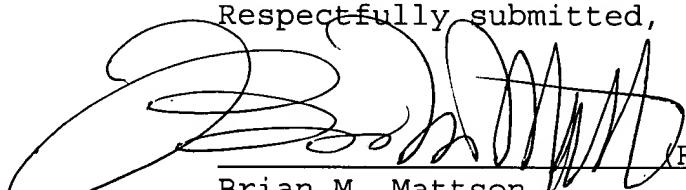
In a telephone conversation with Examiner Smits regarding a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 7, 2003, Examiner Smits indicated that the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was received. Examiner Smits indicated that the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement had not "caught up" to the file prior to mailing the Final Rejection. Nonetheless, Examiner Smits indicated that the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 7, 2003 would be considered in response to this Amendment After Final.

By the present Amendment, Applicants canceled Claims 21-53. Applicants submit that cancellation of Claims 21-53 places the application in condition for allowance. Applicants reserve the right to separately pursue Claims 21-53 in a separately filed

divisional application as discussed with Examiner Smits and Special Programs Examiner Isenzopf.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims in the application are in allowable form and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Further, Applicants submit that neither further search nor consideration would be necessitated by entry of this Amendment. Therefore, entry of this Amendment is proper and should be effected.

If any outstanding issues remain, Applicants urge the Patent Office to telephone Applicants' attorney so that the same may be resolved and the application expedited to issue. Applicants request the Patent Office to indicate all claims as allowable and to pass the application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **Amendment After Final** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Reissue, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 26, 2003.

*BMM*